

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 H-03 /073 W

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P 040024Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 1910

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, MX

SUBJ: AMERICAN CEMETERY DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MEXICO 3901

1. WHEN I SPOKE WITH GALLASTEGUI ON OTHER MATTERS ON JUNE 1 AT CONCLUSION OF CONVERSATION HE URGED THAT WE COME TO A DECISION ON CEMETERY MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE BROUGHT OUT THAT CONSTRUCTION IS IN PROGRESS ON BOTH SIDES OF CEMETERY SITE AND ALSO HIS FEARS THAT COMMENCEMENT OF RAINY SEASON WILL REQUIRE SOME WORK IN CONSTRUCTION WITH RE-ROUTING UNDERGROUND STREAMS.

2. GALLASTEGUI SAID THAT HE REGRETTED THAT OUR FIRST CONVERSATION IN THIS MATTER HAD COMMENCED BADLY AND ASSURED ME THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD INTENDED NO DISRESPECT FOR AMERICAN WAR DEAD.

3. HE HOPED THAT WE COULD DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE LONG EXISTENT, MOSS COVERED AMERICAN CEMETERY TO WHICH PUBLIC OPINION WAS FULLY ACCUSTOMED AND AN ABMC'S PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW GOVERNMENT OWNED "NATIONAL" CEMETERY SUCH AS US HAD IN PHILIPPINES, JAPAN, ETC. AS GOM COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH A TRANSFORMATION.

4. HE BELIEVED THAT FORSEC CURRENT PROPOSAL, IF WE SO DESIRE,
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THAT PROPERTY COULD BE ACQUIRED IN THE NAME OF A CIVIL GROUP

WAS INTENDED TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY ON GOM PART.

5. GALLASTEGUI SAID THAT IN HIS OWN MIND HOWEVER THE MOST DIGNIFIED SOLUTION AND THAT WHICH WOULD BRING FEWEST PROBLEMS TO BOTH SIDES WAS TO HAVE THE CEMETERY REMAIN IN ITS PRESENT SITE EVEN THOUGH IN A DIMINISHED SIZE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT AND ABMC REACH DECISION ON THIS MATTER AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT. WE HAVE DONE A GREAT DEAL OF SOUL-SEARCHING HERE AND THERE SEEMS TO BE CONSENSUS BOTH BETWEEN COUNTRY TEAM AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY (HOWEVER IMPERFECT) FOR IT TO REMAIN ON PRESENT CEMETERY SITE EVEN IF DIMINISHED. I AM GLAD TO NOTE THAT GALLASTEGUI SEEMS TO BE ON THE SAME WAVE LENGTHS. IN MAKING DECISION REQUEST THAT WE KEEP IN MIND SPANISH PROVERB "LO PERFECTO ES ENEMIGO DE LO BUENO".
JOVA

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